

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF MAY 15TH, 1939.

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor, in the State House, Annapolis, on Monday, May 15th, 1939.

Present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor.
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller.
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

Mr. Laurence Hall Fowler and Mr. Henry Powell Hopkins, Architects for the new State office Building in Annapolis were present to discuss with the Board certain matters in connection with the new building. The Architects advised that they had secured estimates for demolishing the Armory, for finishing and surfacing the lot back of the Office Building for a parking area, for building a brick wall along Bladen Street between the sidewalk and parking area, and for certain other work in connection with finishing the grounds adjacent to the Building.

The estimate of the Davis Construction Company, in the amount of \$7,190.00 for demolishing the Armory in accordance with plans and specifications of the Architects was approved, and the Architects were authorized to have the contractor proceed with the work.

The bid of the Davis Construction Company, in the amount of \$9,700.00, for finishing and surfacing lot back of the Office Building for a parking area, in accordance with plans and specifications of the Architects, was approved, and the Architects were authorized to proceed with having the work done.

The estimate of the Davis Construction Company of \$2,850.00, for building a brick wall along Bladen Street between the sidewalk and the parking area, in accordance with plans and specifications of the Architects, was approved, and the Architects were instructed to have the Davis Construction Company proceed with the work.

The Board took up the request of the Adjutant General, Milton A. Reckord, made to the Governor, that he be permitted to move the equipment in the present Armory on Bladen Street to rooms in the basement of the State House, so that the Armory could be vacated preliminary to its razing, and pending the construction of a new Armory. The request of the Adjutant General was approved.

The Architects submitted to the Board sketches which had been prepared for furniture for the private offices of the Comptroller and the Treasurer and the private offices of the Chief Deputies of the State Comptroller and State Treasurer, as well as for the corridors of the new State Office Building. It was stated that this furniture would have to be custom made and could not be purchased from stock because of having to conform to the Colonial atmosphere of the new building. The Board tentatively approved the plans for the furniture and instructed the Architects to secure estimates from at least four concerns who are capable of making the furniture and to submit the estimates to the Board for its consideration.

The Architects stated they would like to be advised as early as possible as to partitions to be erected in the new State Office Building. A letter addressed to the Architects by the Davis Construction Company quoted a price of \$7,545.00 for erecting partitions on the second floor, in accordance with sketches submitted by the Architects. It was stated that the same work could be done on the third floor for the same price, but that if additional partitions were required on the third floor because of this being needed to take care of Departments being moved into the new State Office Building, the cost for the third floor would run in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00. The Board deferred any action in connection with authorizing the erection of partitions until some information could be available as to the requirements of Departments to be transferred to the new building.

The question of Departments to be transferred to the new building was considered. The Board authorized Mr. Miles and Mr. McCusker to go into this matter as fully as possible and secure for the Board as much information as was available relative to the practicability of transferring certain Departments from Baltimore City to Annapolis.

The question of telephone service for the Departments in the new building was considered. It was agreed that each Department should arrange for its own telephone service and that there should be no central switch board for all the Department.

Messrs. Fowler and Hopkins, Architects, took up with the Board the question of alterations to the Court of Appeals Building in connection with the occupancy of that building by the Court and Library after the building is vacated by the State Treasurer and State Comptroller upon completion of the new State Office Building. The amount of work to be done under the estimate was somewhat limited because of the prospect of lack of funds remaining unexpended upon the completion of the new State Office Building. The tentative plans submitted by the Architects called for the remodeling of the space in the Court of Appeals Building now being used by the Alcoholic Beverages Division of the State Comptroller's Office and the space in that corner of the building used by the State Treasurer's Office. The plans call for a private office for each of the eight Judges with an office for the Secretary, with lavatory facilities, and an elevator so that the Judges might go directly from their offices to the Judges' quarters adjoining the Court Room on the second floor without having to come out into the public part of the building. The cost of doing this work, and with some additional furniture, is estimated at \$21,282.00. This does not make any provision for any remodeling or library stacks in the main office now used by the State Comptroller. The Board deferred taking any action in connection with remodeling the Court of Appeals Building for the use of the Court and the Library until such time as it is possible to determine just how much money will be available for that purpose out of the Office Building Account. The Board is anxious to have enough funds available to make full use of the Court of Appeals Building for the Court and Library immediately and is desirous of not having to wait until the General Assembly of 1941 can supply additional funds.

The Secretary took up with the Board some correspondence relating to the removal of service poles on Bladen Street and Carroll Street, so that these Streets would be clear of these poles upon completion of the new State Office Building. The contract with the Davis Construction Company calls for the removal of all poles on College Avenue. The Board thought it well to defer the matter of whether these poles should be removed until such time as it is possible to determine whether there will be enough money left in the Construction Fund to take care of the cost of the work.

The Secretary took up with the Board the question of additional work at the State Power House, as set forth in a letter from Chas. T. King, Inc., dated May 11th, 1939. This work had been discussed with Mr. James Posey, Consulting Engineer and Mr. E. Lee Kries, State Engineer. It was decided to defer any action in connection with this work until such time as it can be determined whether the funds of the Construction Account for the new State Office Building will be sufficient to take care of the cost.

The Secretary read a letter from the Architects for the new State Office Building, advising that it would be necessary to build a new concrete manhole in connection with connecting the stormwater sewer from the new State Office Building to the City stormwater sewer. It will be necessary to build a new concrete manhole to receive the existing City surface water and surface water supply from the new State Office Building. The cost of this additional work, based on an estimate received from the Davis Construction Company, is \$295.00. The Board authorized the doing of the work at the price quoted.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Architects for the new State Office Building, advising that in accordance with the terms of the contract of the Davis Construction Company, page 5, the Owner has the privilege of deducting \$55,750.00 from this contract should he decide not to move the Armory, and the privilege of deducting an additional \$1,000.00 should the Armory be demolished. Inasmuch as it has been decided

to demolish the Armory, the Secretary was instructed to advise the Davis Construction Company accordingly, and the Architects, that it is not the intention of the State to move the Armory but to raze it, and under the circumstances the State decided to avail itself of its right under the contract to deduct \$55,750.00 therefrom and the additional \$1,000.00 for the demolition of the Armory.

Mr. Miles took up with the Board the question of carrying insurance on State-owned automobiles. He stated that at this time the State is carrying a fleet policy covering all automobiles owned by State Agencies protecting the State against loss by fire and theft on this equipment. He stated that his office has not covered any of the automobiles with Public Liability or Property Damage Insurance, but that some of the Departments using automobiles for State business are carrying this insurance and paying for it out of their Budgets. Mr. Miles suggested the advisability of having him look into the matter with a view to seeing what it would cost to cover State-owned automobiles with Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance in a fleet policy, as he felt sure there could be quite a saving effected through carrying the insurance in such a policy.

The suggestion was agreeable to the Board, and Mr. Miles was authorized to proceed to get the information to be submitted to the Board at a later meeting.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a copy of letter addressed to the Governor by the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, Inc., dated April 17th, 1939, relative to the deepening and widening of the Wicomico River Channel. In the letter the Board was advised that two methods were being considered for removing the dredged materials, one, the hydraulic method, the other, by scow. It is contended that while the hydraulic method is not as costly as the scow method, the damage which it is expected will be done by the dredging to the oyster beds will be greater through use of the hydraulic method, and the Chamber of Commerce suggested that it might be possible for the State to make available out of the appropriation to cover damages to oyster beds the difference in cost between the two methods, because of the saving in the amount of damage the State will ultimately have to pay on the oyster beds. The Board referred to the law appropriating the money and decided that its authority was limited to using the money to reimburse owners for damage done to oyster beds, and that it would not be possible for the State to use this money to pay any expense of the dredging work or for the additional cost of the scow method over the hydraulic method. The Board instructed the Secretary to advise the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce accordingly.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it under date of April 28th, 1939, by Doctor George H. Preston, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, relative to efforts to be made to collect from persons responsible for the maintenance of persons in State Mental Institutions the cost of such maintenance. The Budget for the fiscal year 1940 contains an appropriation to cover the services and expenses of an investigator for this work.

The Board deferred any action in the matter principally because of being so busy at this time with other business and advised the Secretary to bring Dr. Preston's letter to the attention of the Board at a later meeting.

The Secretary reported to the Board that Mr. Harry Mertz, State Purchasing Agent and Mr. Walter N. Kirkman are continuing their efforts looking toward the selection of a new location for the Central Purchasing Bureau to be available upon the expiration of the lease for the present quarters in the Whitaker Building on September 30th, 1939. Mr. Mertz and Mr. Kirkman are working on the proposition at this time and expect to be able to submit tentative plans, costs, etc., to the Board at an early date.

. The Board took up for consideration the construction work to be done

at the various Institutions and by State Agencies, for which funds are appropriated in the General Bond Issue of 1939.

The Secretary was instructed to advise all State Agencies entitled to appropriations under that Bond Issue that all expenditures are subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works, as set forth in Section 7 of the Act authorizing the Loan and that no commitments binding the State for the expenditure of any of these funds should be made without first having received the approval of the Board of Public Works.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the loss sustained by the State Accident Fund amounting to \$984.15, because of the defalcation of one of the employees of the Fund. The matter had been referred to the Attorney General, so that it might be determined whether it is possible for the State to recover the loss. In a letter addressed to the Comptroller's Office under date of April 27th, 1939, the State Law Department advised that it was not possible to recover this loss from the bonding company or from any other source, and that the amount should be written off as a loss to the State Accident Fund.

The Board concurred in the recommendation of the State Law Department.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Charles E. Gates, Annapolis, Maryland, in which he advised the Board he proposed to furnish all tile and material and cut out all broken tile and replace new tile and do all pointing up on the tile walk in the front yard of the Governor's house for the sum of \$82.00.

The Governor stated that he was not as familiar with the damage to the tile walk as he would like to be, and would rather look into the question of the necessity for repairs before requesting that the work be done.

The other members of the Board stated that if the Governor decides the work should be done, it will be agreeable to them if the Governor proceeds to have the work done.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it by the Maryland State Poultry Council, in which the Board was requested to make available out of the appropriation of \$15,000.00 in the Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1st, 1939, for publicity purposes, the sum of \$1,000.00, to be used in entertaining foreign delegates who will be guests of the University of Maryland in conjunction with Maryland Poultry Day on July 26th, 1939 at College Park.

The Board took no action on the request because it was felt that the amount of \$4,500.00, which was included in the appropriation of \$15,000.00 mentioned above, would be necessary for the expense of the poultry exhibit to be held in Ohio this year, and the law reads that the appropriation is "for Maryland's representation in the International Poultry Show." It was felt that the use of any part of this money other than at the Show would not be in accordance with the Act of the Legislature in appropriating the money.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board some correspondence from Mr. W. L. Tull, Crisfield, Maryland, relating to a claim previously made by him covering damages to oyster beds arising out of the dredging of the Pocomoke Sound by the Federal Government.

The Board was unable to give any further consideration to Mr. Tull's claim because of the fact that the General Assembly of 1939 appropriated the unexpended balance of the appropriation made by the General Assembly of 1937 to cover damage claims for other purposes.

The Board approved the authority given to the State Tobacco Inspector for making repairs to the cornice of "A" Warehouse at a cost of \$225.00, this expense to be paid out of the Budget for the State Tobacco Warehouse for repairs.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Mr. James J. Glenn, 301 North Charles Street, Baltimore, advising that he had available for sale to the State, if the Board of Public Works is interested, a very handsome solid silver sword presented to Colonel Miles by the State of Maryland for gallantry in the Mexican War.

The Secretary was instructed to advise Mr. Glenn that it would not be possible for the State to be interested in the sword at this time.

The Board approved the estimate of the E. A. Wright Bank Note Company, Philadelphia, of 34¢ each for preparing bonds of the General Bond Issue of 1939.

The Secretary was authorized to place the necessary order with the company for the bonds.

Corporations

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., Attorney, Leonardtown, Maryland, relative to taxes due the State by Washington, Brandywine and Point Lookout Railroad Company.

The Secretary was instructed to request Mr. Dorsey to have the railroad company make an offer for the settlement of the taxes.

Military

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to the Governor by Major General Milton A. Reckord, requesting that if possible the \$4,000.00 appropriated in the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1st, 1939 be paid at this time to the widow and child of 1st Sergeant Leslie C. Stanton, Maryland National Guard, and to Mrs. Frederick H. Schrader of Hampstead, Maryland, who was injured by a National Guard truck, rather than have these persons wait until the next fiscal year for the money.

The Board decided it was unable to make available at this time money which the General Assembly of 1939 specifically appropriated in the budget for the year beginning October 1st, 1939.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board some correspondence with Dr. Kenneth B. Jones, Superintendent, Eastern Shore State Hospital, which requested that the Hospital be authorized to purchase at this time equipment for which an appropriation is included in the August 15th, 1939 installment of the General Bond Issue of 1939.

The Board was agreeable to the purchase of the equipment by the Hospital provided it is possible for the Hospital to arrange with the vendors to wait until shortly after August 15th, 1939 for payment.

Leases

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter dated April 18th, 1939, from the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, relative to offices in the Fidelity Building used by State Agencies.

The Board felt that the only Agency of the State occupying space in the Fidelity Building at this time which might possibly be moved to other quarters is the State Department of Forestry, but that the Board was not in position to definitely commit the State as to any term for the Agencies now in the building.

The Comptroller submitted statements of expenses for operating the Relief Tax Division and the Income Tax Division, for the period October 1st, 1938 to March 31st, 1939, showing total expenditures of -

Relief Tax Division - \$48,567.93

Income Tax Division - \$48,361.44

The statements were approved.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it under date of April 17th, 1939, by the State Department of Health, requesting that space be allotted to that Department in the new State Office Building at Annapolis. The letter was referred to Mr. Miles and Mr. McCusker for their consideration.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to the Governor under date of April 6th, 1939, by Chicago Flag & Decorating Company, in which the State was requested to authorize the furnishing of a Maryland Flag by that company for use in the Polish Museum at Warsaw.

The request was not approved.

Leases

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board ^{a letter} from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, relative to the use by State Agencies of office space in the Standard Oil Building. The Company requested that it be advised as to the various State Departments using office space in Baltimore, with the amount of square feet used and the rental paid therefor.

The Secretary was authorized to advise the company that the information was not available.

St. Dept. of Public Welfare

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a request from the Board of State Aid and Charities, Public Assistance Division, for approval of the expenditure of \$4,377.50 made available to the Board of State Aid and Charities by the United States Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C.

The approval was granted.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a voucher submitted to the Comptroller by the Military Department, requesting payment to 1st Lieut. Allan L. Feldman of \$425.00, covering services in connection with recruiting, organizing and training company at Denton, Maryland, for January, February, March and April, 1939. The Military Department proposed to charge this voucher to the General Bond Issue of 1937, which includes an appropriation of \$50,000 to the Military Department for construction of an Armory at Denton, Maryland.

The Board was of the opinion that funds appropriated for construction purposes could not be used for the purposes set forth in the above mentioned voucher, and authorized the Comptroller to disapprove the payment of the voucher insofar as the charging of it to the General Bond Issue of 1937 is concerned.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board some correspondence with Cheltenham School for Boys relative to the carrying of Public Liability and Property Damage insurance on automobiles belonging to the Institution.

The Board felt that this matter would be ultimately given consideration after Mr. Miles has had an opportunity to look into the question of securing a fleet coverage for such insurance, as already outlined in the business of today's meeting.

The Secretary submitted to the Board a statement received from the State Roads Commission, showing the expenditure of funds made available by the Emergency Reconstruction Bond Issue of 1936.

The Secretary was instructed to file the statement.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it by the Western Union Telegraph Company, Inc., in which permission was requested to locate a pole on State House Circle to support a cable running along the Circle from Maryland Avenue to a pole in front of Calvary Methodist Church.

Approval was granted.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board expense accounts received from Hon. Thomas E. Conlon, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Hon. John C. Lubber, a member of the House of Delegates, and Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., State Senate, covering expenses incurred in attending a meeting of the Council of State Governments, as members of the Maryland Commission, at Chicago. It was brought out at the meeting that the appropriation in the budget for the year beginning October 1st, 1939 of \$1,000 is "to the Council of State Governments for expenses in connection with the participation of the State in the activities of the Council of State Governments and other National Organizations",

It was thought that this appropriation is payable to the Organizations as the State's contribution toward their maintenance rather than for expenses of the members from Maryland in attending meetings of the Organizations. It was felt that this \$1,000 could not be used to reimburse the members for their expenses in attending the meeting this year.

The Board approved the following budget amendments for the fiscal year 1939 -

Rosewood State Training School, dated May 10th, 1939, showing increases of \$200.00 and decreases in like amount.

Conservation Department, dated May 3rd, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$2,325.00.

Maryland Training School for Colored Girls, dated May 5th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$400.00.

State Auditor, dated May 4th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Maryland State Penal Farm, dated April 27th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Cheltenham School for Boys, dated April 25th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$1,950.00.

Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, dated April 12th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$5,015.00.

Montrose School for Girls, dated May 13th, 1939, showing increases and decreases in the amount of \$2,130.00.

The Board approved and executed the following deeds -

Deed dated April 28th, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Agnes E. McMullen, et al, conveying a parcel of land in the Seventh Election District of Cecil County, containing 0.34 acre of land.

Deed dated April 28th, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Samuel A. Lehman, conveying a parcel of land in Montgomery County, containing 4541 square feet of land.

Deed dated April 28th, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Dolly Goshorn Warren, conveying a parcel of land in Prince George's County (quit claim deed)

Deed dated April 3rd, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Joseph H. Milans, conveying a parcel of land in Montgomery County being lots nos. 12, 13, 14 and 15 on Plat no. 1260.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Joseph C. McCluskey
Secretary.

** Deed dated April 28th, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Lewis Reed and Ethlene R. Reed, his wife and Edgar Reed and Rachel W. Reed, his wife, conveying a parcel of land in Montgomery County, containing 38 square feet more or less, and being designated as parcel Number three on plat Number 3074.

Deed dated April 3rd, 1939, from the State Roads Commission and the Board of Public Works to Norris N. Young of Pocomoke City, Maryland, conveying a certain portion of lot 3, in Block 1 of the Shute Sub-division of the Myers tract, Ocean City, Maryland, for which the Commission has no need in connection with its activities. (Quit claim deed)